

Message Text

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21 S 10
ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 CCO-00

SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /168 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO - JDSTODDART:ML

APPROVED BY PM/ISO - J.D.STODDART

AF - MR. WALKER

OSD/ISA - CDR SICK

PM - MR. STERN

EUR/NE - MR. FLOYD

EA/RA - MR. CHAPMAN

NEA - MR. SCHIFF

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P 010212Z DEC 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
USINT CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
CINCPAC
CINCLANT
USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR
SUBJECT: MOVE OF HANCOCK TASK GROUP TO GULF OF ADEN

REFERENCE: STATE 232662

1. SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AT A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY ABOUT U.S. NAVAL DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. QUOTE AS YOU ALSO KNOW, THE USS HANCOCK HAS BEEN IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IN RECENT WEEKS. IT IS NOW MAKING THE INITIAL PREPARATIONS TO WITHDRAW FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN. TWO OF THE DESTROYERS ACCOMPANYING THE HANCOCK HAVE BEEN ON A PORT VISIT TO MASSAWA, ETHIOPIA. WHEN THEY REJOIN THE TASK FORCE, IT WILL BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT WILL, HOWEVER, BE REPLACED BY A TASK FORCE CENTERING ON THE ORISKANY. AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, PRIOR TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HOSTILITIES IN VIETNAM THERE WERE REGULAR VISITS BY U.S. NAVAL FORCES TO THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE INTEND TO REESTABLISH THE PATTERN OF REGULAR VISITS INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN, AND WE EXPECT THAT OUR PRESENCE THERE WILL BE MORE FREQUENT AND MORE REGULAR THAN IN THE PAST.

2. FOLLOWING EMERGED FROM SUBSEQUENT Q. AND A. SESSION:

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Q. COULD YOU GIVE US A MORE SPECIFIC EXPLANATION OF WHY WE HAVE SHIFTED OUR STRATEGY WITH RESPECT TO THE INDIAN OCEAN? I UNDERSTAND YOUR REMARKS ABOUT PRIOR TO VIETNAM AND THE FREQUENCY OF OUR VISITS THERE, BUT NEVER-THELESS, IT HAS BEEN OUR POLICY AND IT HAS BEEN ARTICULATED MOST RECENTLY THAT WE ONLY GO THERE FROM TIME TO TIME. COULD YOU TELL US SPECIFICALLY WHAT THE DECISION

HAS BEEN MADE TO GO THERE MORE FREQUENTLY THAN FROM TIME
TO TIME?

A. AS I SAID, BEFORE THE VIETNAMESE WAR, THERE ARE
REGULAR MOVEMENTS INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN. THESE REGULAR
MOVEMENTS WILL CONTINUE WITH MORE FREQUENCY. I THINK WE
ARE ALL AWARE OF THE ENHANCED INTEREST THAT APPLIES TO
THE INDIAN OCEAN AS A RESULT OF THE EVENTS OF THE LAST
FOUR WEEKS.

3. ADDRESSEES MAY DRAW ON FOREGOING TO AMPLIFY PARA 4
REFTEL. RUSH

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